We claim:

1. A process for hydrogenating aromatic nitro compounds to the corresponding amines in the presence of hydrogenation catalysts, which comprises using hydrogenation catalysts in which nickel and platinum are present on a support in the form of an alloy having an atomic ratio of nickel to platinum in the alloy of between 30:70 and 70:30.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic nitro compound used is dinitrotoluene.

3. The process according to claim 1, wherein the atomic ratio of nickel to platinum in the alloy is between 40:60 and 60:40.

4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the atomic ratio of nickel to platinum in the alloy is between 45:55 and 55:45.

5. The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount of from 0.01 to 10% by weight, based on the reaction mixture.

6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the reaction mixture.

7. The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount of from 0.2 to 2% by weight, based on the reaction mixture.

8. The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out at a temperature in the range from 80 to 250°C.

9. The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst used is used at its loading limit.

10. A catalyst which comprises nickel and platinum on a support in the form of an alloy having an atomic ratio of nickel to platinum in the alloy of between 40:60 and 60:40, wherein the support is selected from the group comprising activated carbon, carbon black and graphite.

11. The use of catalysts according to claim 10 for hydrogenating dinitrotoluene.